

WAK

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/921,453	KAJITA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gims S. Philippe	2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Communication received on 8/3/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. The drawings filed on 02 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. After a further search and a thorough examination of the present application and in light of the prior art made of record, claims 1-11 are found to be in condition for allowance.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The claims are allowable over the prior art of record since the cited reference taken individually or in combination fails to particularly disclose an image decoding method and device comprising a prediction means which comprises a reference value storage means which includes means for holding reference values that are necessary for the prediction performed on a target macroblock, prediction computation means for performing prediction computations based on reference values of the reference value storage means, predicted values storage means for holding results of the prediction computation, prediction control means for controlling the reference value storage means, the prediction computation means, and the predicted value storage means, and a total storage volume of the reference value storage means and the predicted value storage means being smaller than a storage volume of predicted values for an entire image size, and the prediction control means includes means for copying data,

necessary for the prediction computation of a next macroblock, from the predicted value storage means to the reference value storage means.

It is noted that the closest prior art of record (Lee US 6,466,620) teaches a similar decoding method and device, however, Lee fails to particularly teach or suggest “*a reference value storage means which includes means for holding reference values that are necessary for the prediction performed on a target macroblock, prediction computation means for performing prediction computations based on reference values of the reference value storage means, predicted values storage means for holding results of the prediction computation, prediction control means for controlling the reference value storage means, the prediction computation means, and the predicted value storage means, and a total storage volume of the reference value storage means and the predicted value storage means being smaller than a storage volume of predicted values for an entire image size, and the prediction control means includes means for copying data, necessary for the prediction computation of a next macroblock, from the predicted value storage means to the reference value storage means*” as specified in the claims.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance”.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gims S. Philippe whose telephone number is (571) 272-7336. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-7:00) Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris S. Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Gims S Philippe
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2613

GSP

May 18, 2005